

# Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis (LaVA)

## Meeting Minutes

### Cooperator's Meeting

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017; 0900 – 1200

In person or VTC

#### In attendance:

##### Forest Service:

Melissa Martin, P&I PM – SO  
Paula Guenther, NEPA Coordinator – CZ  
Frank Romero, District Ranger – LRD  
Melanie Fullman, District Ranger – BCH  
Liz D'Arcy, GIS – SO  
Tim Douville, Silviculturist – LRD  
Steve Loose, Wildlife, BCH  
Abby Filkoski, Timber Support – LRD

#### Cooperating Agencies:

Lisa Solberg-Schwab, US Fish & Wildlife  
Joan McGraw, Med Bow Conservation District  
Maureen Hartshorn, BLM Rawlins  
Justin Williams, WDA  
Rick Huber, WGFD  
Katie Cheesbrough, WGFD  
Leanne Correll, SERCD  
Carson Engelskirger, WSFD  
Tony Hoch, Laramie River Conservation District  
Travis Pardue, WSFD

## AGENDA TOPICS

### 1. Roadless Update

#### DISCUSSION

The maps that depict roadless areas are online and the roadless guidance notes were sent out previously in an email.

- When developing maps, we took into account where cooperators and FS staff provided a 'resource at risk' (e.g., other landownership, WUIs, ditches/fences) and used those as overlays on the roadless area
- Rules that were followed: ½ mile buffer around Communities at Risk (CARs), WUIs, Boreal Toad sites, BOPU catchments, and other landownerships. Maps also include 8<sup>th</sup> level watersheds associated with Colorado River cutthroat trout streams and WGFD Mule Deer initiative areas.
- Is 10 years enough time to have this implemented after doing all this work?

#### CONCLUSION

- Eventually the maps will display all of these shapefiles on the 25 different roadless areas.
- Need to send letters of support to the regional forester toward the end of May/early June. Send one letter of support coming from the governor.
- The NOI and roadless update will be sent to the region no later than May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### 2. Lynx Modeling

#### DISCUSSION

- LAUs (Lynx analysis units) are typically made up of 40,000 – 60,000 acres to provide adequate habitat for females to raise their young; they normally consist of a Spruce-Fir multi-story landscape.

- A Lodgepole pine stand has to be made up of at least 10% Spruce-Fir to be considered lynx habitat. An Aspen stand has to be made up of at least 5% Spruce-Fir to be considered lynx habitat.
- Suitable: right now it is providing habitat for snowshoe hares and red squirrels
  - Suitable habitat consists of a dense horizontal cover that needs to be higher than the snow in winter, Spruce-Fir, vaccinium, lupine, multi-story stand.
- Unsuitable: it is not providing habitat for snowshoe hares and red squirrels
- 30% unsuitable habitat cap
  - We are able to go over 30% if we are protecting buildings, structures, and WUI communities
  - Don't want to treat more than 15% suitable habitat in LAU over 10 year period of time
  - If we stay under the 30% cap then we will have more of a say on what kind of PCT contract that can take place in a certain area. If we are at the 30% cap then we have fewer options on PCT contracts.

#### CONCLUSION

- 2017 remodeling of lynx habitat is more accurate than 2011 modeling.
  - 2017 remodeling showed lower mortality rates, more accurate representation of what is actually on the ground and more suitable habitat.
- Can't go above a 30% unsuitable habitat in each LAU.

### 3. Purpose and Need, Proposed Action

#### DISCUSSION

Documents were sent out in a previous email.

- The draft NOI is a brief document that is published in the Federal Register. It contains a brief description of the Proposed Action; more detail will be provided in the scoping document.
- Make sure we are consistent verbiage between all documents.
- Changes to the document
  - Add in the phrase "improve, protect and restore wildlife habitat" on the first page
  - Take out the rough number of acres that needs to be treated
  - Change "species habitat" to "wildlife habitat"
  - Add in partnerships like cooperators, partners, NGOs that are all helping with the process

#### CONCLUSION

- Changes will be made to document

### ACTION ITEMS

- Internal staff will send NOI and roadless update to the RO by May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Cooperators and governor send letters of support to the RO by the end of May.

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.**